

### Listing of Claims:

What is claimed, is

1. (Currently amended) A cryptographic method comprising providing a secret cryptographic key and a public cryptographic key applicable in a network of connected computer nodes using a signature scheme, the method being executable by a first computer node and the step of providing comprising the steps of:

- generating the secret cryptographic key by
    - selecting two random factor values ,
    - multiplying the two selected random factor values to obtain a modulus value , and
    - selecting a secret base value in dependence on the modulus value , wherein the secret base value forms part of the secret cryptographic key ;
  - generating the public cryptographic key by
    - selecting a number of exponent values , and
    - deriving a public base value from the exponent values and the secret base value , wherein the public base value and the modulus value form part of the public cryptographic key ;
  - deleting the two random factor values;~~and~~
  - providing the public cryptographic key within the network;
- such that the public cryptographic key and at least one of the selected exponent values is usable for verifying a signature value on a message to be sent within the network to a second computer node for verification;
- providing a description of the exponent values within the network; and
  - defining an order of the selected exponent values for enabling to communicate the validity of the signature value in the event of a detected intrusion

2. - 22. (Canceled)